

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019604
ORIGIN NEA-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN SHOULD READ 019604, VICE 019605)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EAIR, BA

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF AN OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM MONITOR
IN BAHRAIN

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT
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TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA
INFO COMMANDANT US COAST GUARD WASHDC

1. THE U.S. COAST GUARD COORDINATES THE OPERATION OF A
NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT CALLED THE OMEGA
SYSTEM. BASICALLY THIS SYSTEM CONSISTS OF EIGHT TRANS-
MITTING STATIONS AROUND THE WORLD WHICH TRANSMIT A SIGNAL
ON KNOWN FREQUENCIES, IN CLOSELY PHASED SEQUENCES. VESSELS
AND AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH SPECIAL EQUIPMENT CAN RECEIVE
THIS SIGNAL AND USE IT TO LOCATE THEIR POSITION.

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2. WHILE THE OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM IS REASONABLY ACCU-
RATE NOW, ITS ACCURACY CAN BE IMPROVED BASED ON STUDY OF
THE EXACT NATURE OF THE SIGNAL, AS RECEIVED, AT SEVERAL
KEY POINTS AROUND THE WORLD. TWO YEARS OF THIS RAW DATA
IS MOST USEFUL IN MAKING THE CORRECTIONS NECESSARY TO
IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE OMEGA SYSTEM.

3. IN ORDER TO COLLECT THIS DATA TWO ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS AND AN ANTENNA MUST BE PLACED AT A FACILITY WITHIN THE COUNTRY SELECTED. THE COAST GUARD WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN OMEGA SYSTEM MONITOR IN BAHRAIN. THE COAST GUARD HAS ALREADY TAKEN UP PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH "MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS" IN MANAMA. THIS ORGANIZATION'S MANAMA OFFICES WOULD BE A QUITE ACCEPTABLE SITE FOR THE OMEGA MONITOR SYSTEM AND MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION SEEMS RECEPTIVE.

4. THE KEY ELEMENT IN PLACEMENT OF THE OMEGA MONITOR SYSTEM IS A TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COAST GUARD AND THE ORGANIZATION RECEIVING THE SYSTEM. THIS AGREEMENT SETS OUT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SYSTEM'S MAINTENANCE AND USE. THE COAST GUARD, WHICH HAS SOUGHT AND OBTAINED BLANKET CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY, PROPOSES TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AN AGREEMENT DIRECTLY WITH MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS, AND WE AGREE WITH THIS APPROACH. HOWEVER, WE FEEL IT NECESSARY TO OFFICIALLY SEEK THE GOB'S AGREEMENT TO THIS PROCEDURE, AND TO KEEP THE GOB INFORMED AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED.

5. AS A RESULT, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK A CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO: A. CONTACT MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS FOR COORDINATION PURPOSES; B. SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN TO DESCRIBE IN BROAD OUTLINE THE OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELYING ON PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO FOR GUIDANCE AND MATERIAL WE HAVE POUCHED TO EMBASSY. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK THE GOB'S CONCURRENCE IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO PLACE OMEGA NAVIGATION MONITOR SYSTEM IN BAHRAIN. IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB OFFICIALS, YOU MIGHT USEFULLY POINT OUT THAT GOB WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE FREE ACCESS TO ANY OMEGA DATA COLLECTED IN BAHRAIN AS WELL AS DATA COLLECTED IN ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD.

6. IF GOB AGREES THAT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN, EMBASSY SHOULD COORDINATE WITH MIDDLE EAST NAVIGATION AIDS AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM TO KEEP THE GOB INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. ON OUR PART, WE HAVE POUCHED FULL INFORMATION ON THE OMEGA SYSTEM TO EMBASSY, AND HAVE INCLUDED AS WELL AS EXAMPLE OF PROPOSED DRAFT AGREEMENT. WE WILL KEEP EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS FROM WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVE AS NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED. VANCE

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